

has taken care of our troops on a more consistent basis since coming to the Congress than JACK MURTHA. Previous Presidents know this, this President knows it, present and former members of Congress know it, and most importantly, our troops know it.

Congressman MURTHA has been standing side-by-side with our troops throughout the Iraq war, from his presence in Kuwait just days before the start of the war, to his ongoing weekly visits to wounded troops at Bethesda Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, to his regular travel to the region to be with our troops. Each and every step of the way JACK MURTHA has made sure that our troops have what they need, that their families are cared for, and that our country honors their service as deeply as he does. In one case, when a mother told him that bureaucratic red tape would prevent her son, a young man severely wounded in service to his country from receiving a Purple Heart, JACK MURTHA said that if her son didn't get a Purple Heart, he would give him one of his. This is JACK MURTHA.

After great personal reflection on the war and its effects and constant consultation with the military leadership, Congressman MURTHA has done what members of this body are charged to do: He spoke truth to power. He announced it was "time for a change in direction" in Iraq. He did not call for an immediate withdrawal. He has not called for surrender and he has not called for retreat.

Whether Members agree with Congressman MURTHA's judgment on the individual details of his proposal, it's become clear that our current policy in Iraq is unsustainable. It's time to tell the Iraqis that the training wheels have to come off . . . it's time for the Iraqis to take charge of Iraq. Today the American people are ahead of us, with some 65% saying it's time for a change. It's time to begin the overdue debate on how and when we bring our troops home. Congressman MURTHA has set forth a pragmatic and clear proposal. I'm proud to support it.

METHAMPHETAMINE REMEDIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for this legislation, of which I am a cosponsor. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have participated in several hearings and mark-ups on methamphetamine legislation.

One of the many unsafe effects of this drug is the environmental harm caused by producing it and disposing of the byproducts. Given that the products necessary to produce meth can be purchased at a drug store, and it can be produced in small quantities, many users make the drug in their basement, garage or kitchen, despite the health and safety risks.

Cooking meth indoors allows toxic fumes to escape into the house and be trapped in furniture and walls, causing additional health concerns for those producing it—and especially for the family and children who live in

these homes. The production of meth puts family members and children in harm's way, as there is a possibility of inhaling fumes, absorbing chemicals or accidentally ingesting the toxic materials used to manufacture this drug.

Depending on the process used, each pound of meth produced results in about six additional pounds of waste which will likely end up in our sewer systems, in streams or rivers, or on the ground. Given that some of the key ingredients can be acetone, hydrochloric acid, ether and ammonia, disposing of this byproduct improperly can lead to additional health risks and environmental damage.

I am pleased the House is taking up this legislation to address the negative environmental impacts of methamphetamines, and problems posed by clean-up and remediation by directing the EPA to develop assessment standards and remediation guidelines. H.R. 798 also directs studies to be conducted on the residual effects of methamphetamine production, and supports the development of methamphetamine detection testing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to join me in supporting this legislation.

NORTHERN COLORADO WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FACILITIES CONVEYANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and commend my Colorado colleague, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, for its introduction.

The bill would direct the Interior Department to convey to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District wants the title to some of the water-distribution facilities that are part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson project.

That project, authorized by Congress in 1937 to provide water for agricultural and other uses, consists of dams, dikes, reservoirs, powerplants, pumping plants, pipelines, tunnels, and substations spread over approximately 250 miles. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the project's local government sponsor, operates and maintains all of the water conveyance facilities.

H.R. 3443 directs the Secretary of the Interior to transfer 58 miles of the Project's water conveyance facilities (the St. Vrain Supply Canal, Boulder Creek Supply Canal, and South Platte Supply Canal) to the District. The transfer will allow the District to more cost-effectively manage the facilities, reduce paperwork requirements, provide for local ownership and reduce the federal government's liability. The District, which has operated and maintained these water conveyance facilities since 1957, has repaid the appropriate capital costs associated with the facilities. Despite this repayment, the title of the facilities remains in the Bureau of Reclamation. This bill directs the transfer of this title with no conditions. It is modeled on the successful transfer (Public Law 106-376) of other single purpose water conveyance facilities associated with the Colorado Big-Thompson Project.

None of the affected facilities are used to generate electricity. However, payments by

electricity customers have been contributing to the repayment for the overall project, and the electricity customers still owe something under that repayment contract. To reflect that, the bill provides for transfer of funds from electricity-sale collections to complete repayment of the amount the electricity customers owe toward repayment of the facilities to be transferred.

The bill includes language to make clear that it will not lessen the existing responsibilities of the district or affect the rights of two ditch companies whose ditches have been part of the distribution system for water from the Colorado-Big Thompson project. And, to stimulate prompt implementation, the bill says that if the transfer isn't completed within a year Interior must send a written report to Congress explaining why it hadn't done so and to keep reporting annually until the transfer is complete.

I joined as a cosponsor of this legislation because I think it will be beneficial both for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and for the federal government. I urge its approval.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET G. SIMPSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former professional colleague and dear personal friend Harriet G. Simpson. Mrs. Simpson is a dedicated educator and devoted community activist, who is being honored Sunday, December 18, 2005 by the Charleston, South Carolina community and her home church, Mt. Zion AME.

I came to know Mrs. Simpson when I took my first job out of college as a Social Studies teacher in the Charleston, South Carolina public school system. She was one of the leaders in that school system who recognized my leadership potential at an early stage in my development. She became a mentor and one of my most ardent supporters.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Simpson has dedicated herself to the betterment of her community, and has received numerous recognitions for her work. They include, Delta Woman of the Year by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Public Service Award from the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority, and the Omega Service Award by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Also, Arabian Court No. 128 recognized Mrs. Simpson as Outstanding Female Community Worker, and she was a semi-finalist for the Certificate of Achievement as a Role Model from the National Council of Negro Women. She has also been recognized for her achievements by the South Carolina State Senate, and the Moja Arts Festival bestowed upon her an Award for Contribution to Education. Former Charleston Mayor Palmer Gilliard gave Mrs. Simpson the "Key to the City," and Channel 5 Television Station inducted her into its Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Simpson's dedication to her community has manifested itself through her love of education and her deep and abiding religious faith. She has been nominated for as Teacher of the Year at C.A. Brown High School, where I had the privilege of working with her for three years, and received the Human Relations

Award from the South Carolina Education Association. She was named Woman of the Year by her home Church Mt. Zion AME in 1987 and 1991. The Charleston Area Women's Missionary Society also chose Mrs. Simpson for their Outstanding Service Award.

Mrs. Simpson continues to make significant contributions to her community. She established the Harriet F. Simpson Scholarship Fund to help deserving students get a college education. She continues to support students while they are in college with financial help, letters of comfort, and small gifts, and helps them find jobs. She was a founding member of the Moja Arts Festival Committee, and has donated artifacts to the Avery Institute. Although she isn't a wealthy woman, Mrs. Simpson contributes generously to the National Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and to Alzheimer's research. And she continues a ministry of calling and writing the sick and shut-in from her church and those that have moved away from Charleston.

Mrs. Simpson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Allen University, and a Masters degree in Education and Guidance from South Carolina State University, and did post-graduate work at North Carolina Central University. Mrs. Simpson has been a devoted wife for 55 years, and is the proud mother of two children. Her family is blessed with two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She is a loving friend and caring sister, aunt and godmother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Harriet G. Simpson for her lifetime of devotion to education and her community. She is a shining example of how one person can make a tremendous difference an entire community. I commend Mrs. Simpson for her significant contributions and thank her church family at Mt. Zion AME Church for recognizing her.

HONORING THE FLINT POWERS CATHOLIC H.S. CHARGERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today to congratulate the Chargers of Flint Powers Catholic High School, on winning the 2005–2006 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division IV football championship. The Chargers defeated the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars 17–10 in the final game, held November 25 at Ford Field in Detroit.

It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the State of Michigan has to offer.

The Chargers are a true testament of what hard work, dedication, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. Under the guidance of Head Coach Jack Pratt, and Assistant Coaches John Zintsmaster, David Pratt, John Pratt, and Brian McInerney, the championship served as a wonderful finish to a remarkable year, highlighted by a tremendous record of 12–2.

The Chargers roster includes: seniors Josh Babcock, Tom Birchmeier, Eddy Brady, Nick Brown, Nick DeGroot, David Filipovich, Austin Flores, Billy Gonsler, Matt Gregson, Nate

Kopydlowski, Tre Leoni, Andy McCarthy, Jamie Metcalf, Joe Mounger, Dain Murphy, Alex Perry, Tony Poma, Stevie Sleva, Zach Smith, Justin Ward, Ryan Webber, Zeke Zanettaj juniors Matthew Callahan, Kyle Everhart, Chris Filipovich, Eric Fridline, Ricky Guerra, Lance Harchick, Spencer Hickoff, Laval Lucas-Perry, Bobby Macciomei, Michael McPherson, Joshua Michalik, James Milne, Matt Ockerman, Adam Pelc, Ryan Riker, Ryan Sitko, Andrew Skowronski, Thomas Strong, Brad Witt and sophomores Chris Beer, Steve Bonar, John Buck, Louie Chamberlain, John Crook, Andy Herman, Ernie Jones, Tim Kirtok, Andrew Kowalczyk, Brendan Laney, Ronnie Lark, Jeff Maksymowski, Josh Miller, Aaron Sitko, Kyle Steibel, Alex Summers, David Weishuhn, Tom Zintsmaster, and Mike Zureikat. These young men, led by senior captains Birchmeier, Filipovich, Leoni, Poma, and Ward, proved to be leaders in the classroom, the football field, and the community. They are all shining examples of the school's commitment to success in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the accomplishments of the Powers Chargers, and share the joy of victory with the students, faculty, parents, alumni, and the entire Flint community. I am certain that when these fine young men look back upon their high school days, they shall deservedly count this state championship as one of their most cherished memories. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating them, and wishing them the very best in their future endeavors.

IN SEARCH OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the United States must rededicate itself to creating the groundwork for a lasting peace between all the sons of Abraham. A just and lasting peace will be achieved by imbuing the region with the unswerving proof that democracy is the better path than armed conflict and insurgency.

To quote a great American, Abe Lincoln, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." The Palestinian elections are a historic opportunity to bring more Palestinians into the folds of a democratic state; replacing guns with ballots. This election will, hopefully, give President Abbas the legitimacy to implement the necessary reforms for a democratic government: eliminating paramilitary groups, ending corruption and creating a government infrastructure that can provide economic and social services. Hamas is a popular organization in many parts of the West Bank and Gaza because it, not the state, provides a variety of social services.

President Abbas must work to create law and order but, just as important, he needs to foster economic and social development for the Palestinian people, but he cannot do this alone. The West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain economically stagnant and ripe for further violence unless there are serious international efforts to improve the deplorable living conditions of Palestinians. I urge the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to robustly fund programs that will create economic development for Palestinians, which I

believe is an essential step in creating peace in the region.

Finally, the Administration and Congress should be promoting programs that bring about reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. For example, programs like the Interfaith Encounter Association based in Jerusalem bring together Muslims, Jews and Christians to work on building peace and reconciliation. I urge the Administration to include robust funding in the FY 07 budget request for reconciliation programs and to work to build a strong, legitimate civil society in West Bank and Gaza so that Palestinians voices, not gunfire, can reverberate throughout the Middle East.

I voted for passage of H. Res. 575 not because it is the only solution, but because dismantling the Hamas terrorist organization is part of a solution for peace between two peoples who are truly brothers.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored today to introduce, with my colleague, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, the Kalaupapa Memorial Act of 2005, legislation authorizing the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, in my home State of Hawaii, to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, encompassing most of the isolated and haunting Kalaupapa Peninsula and adjacent lands, was established 25 years ago on December 22, 1980. In advance of celebrating its 25th anniversary, our National Park Service is hosting day-long commemorative activities today at Kalaupapa, and it is entirely fitting that we offer this measure during this time of renewed commemoration.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park is a very special and beautiful park with a rich and tragic history. While the park is widely known for the isolation and settlement of Hansen's disease patients from 1866 until 1969, Native Hawaiians inhabited the Kalaupapa Peninsula for 900 years prior to being forcibly removed from their homelands between 1865 and 1895. Surrounded on three sides by ocean and the fourth by steep cliffs, Kalaupapa is spectacularly breathtaking and ecologically diverse, home to nearly 20 federally listed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. When one visits Kalaupapa today, it is like stepping back in time.

Due to its steep cliffs and isolated geography, the Kalaupapa Peninsula was used by the Kingdom of Hawaii, and subsequently the Territory and State of Hawaii, as an isolation settlement for individuals considered to have Hansen's disease, widely known as leprosy, for nearly a century. By law, individuals were forcibly separated from their families and isolated at Kalaupapa to "protect the welfare of